

Dinohippus

Dinohippus (Greek: "Terrible horse") is an extinct equid which was endemic to North America from the late Hemphillian stage of the Miocene through the Zanclean stage of the Pliocene (10.3—3.6 mya) and in existence for approximately 6.7 million years.^{[1][2]} Fossils are widespread throughout North America, being found at more than 30 sites from Florida to Alberta and Panama (Alajuela Formation).

Taxonomy



Skull

Quinn originally referred "*Pliohippus*" *mexicanus* to *Dinohippus*, but unpublished cladistic results in an SVP 2018 conference abstract suggest that *mexicanus* is instead more closely related to extant horses than to *Dinohippus*.^[3]

Description

Dinohippus was the most common horse in North America and like *Equus*, it did not have a dished face. It has a distinctive passive "stay apparatus" formed from bones and tendons to help it conserve energy while standing for long periods. *Dinohippus* was the first horse to show a rudimentary form of this character, providing additional evidence of the close relationship between *Dinohippus* and *Equus*.^[4] *Dinohippus* was originally thought to be a monodactyl horse, but a 1981 fossil find in Nebraska shows that some were tridactyl.^[5] The species *D. leidyanus* had an estimated body mass of approximately 200 kilograms (440 lb).^[6]

References

1. Paleobiology Database: *Dinohippus* basic info. (http://paleodb.org/cgi-bin/bridge.pl?action=checkTaxonInfo&taxon_no=42992&is_real_user=1)
 2. Bruce J. MacFadden: Cenozoic Mammalian Herbivores from the Americas: Reconstructing Ancient Diets and Terrestrial Communities. Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics, Vol. 31, (2000), pp. 33-59

Dinohippus

Temporal range: Middle Miocene–Late Pliocene
(Hemphillian-Blancan)
~10.3–3.6 Ma

PreЄ Є OS D C P T J K PgN



Dinohippus leidyanus skeleton

Scientific classification 

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Perissodactyla
Family:	Equidae
Subfamily:	Equinae
Tribe:	Equini
Genus:	† <i>Dinohippus</i>
	Quinn, 1955

Type species

Pliohippus leidyanus

Species

3. <http://vertpaleo.org/Annual-Meeting/Annual-Meeting-Home/SVP-2018-program-book-V4-FINAL-with-covers.aspx>
4. Florida Museum of Natural History (<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fhc/dinohippus1.htm>)
5. Horse Ecology (<http://www.ecology.info/horses.htm>)
6. M. Mendoza, C. M. Janis, and P. Palmqvist. 2006. Estimating the body mass of extinct ungulates: a study on the use of multiple regression. *Journal of Zoology*

- †*D. edensis* Frick, 1924
- †*D. interpolatus* Cope, 1893
- †*D. leardi* Drescher, 1941
- †*D. leidyanus* Osborn, 1918
- †*D. mexicanus* Lance, 1950
- †*D. osborni* Frick, 1924
- †*D. pachyops* Cope, 1893
- †*D. subvenus* Quinn, 1955



Foot bones

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